



**Family Law**  
**PATHWAYS**  
**NETWORK**

**WESTERN**  
**AUSTRALIA**

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES IN WA FAMILY LAW

JULY 2017

## Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello and happy end of financial year from WAFLPN! It's always busy around here and we have been working on our strategic plan for 2017-2018. We are excited to announce an increased focus on delivering quality events and training to regional areas, as well as continued development of our website and online resources. We are also looking into ways to keep our members updated with details of separation services and referral pathways. A reminder that if you have any feedback that could help us improve our work in the sector to please contact our Development Officer, Jane Azzopardi [jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.org.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.org.au)

We have another exciting event coming up, featuring Dr Lyn Greenberg on her work with children who resist contact. Get in quick as places are filling up fast. There are more details as well as the registration link on page 2 of this eBulletin.

There have been some interesting legislative developments recently,



particularly in the family violence sector at both a state and federal level. You can find more details about these on page 4. And as always, keep up to date with the latest research in the sector on page 3. I hope you enjoy this eBulletin, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the seminar on August 3.



***Working Together  
in the  
Family Law System***

[waflpn.org.au](http://waflpn.org.au)



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Upcoming training and networking opportunities

If you are running a training event and would like it included in our next eBulletin please contact

[WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au)

### When Children Resist Contact: Dr Lyn Greenberg, Forensic & Clinical Psychologist

WA Family Law Pathways Network, the Family Law Practitioners' Association WA & Legal Aid WA present a full day seminar with Dr Lyn Greenberg. This seminar will provide practical tools practitioners can use in their work with children who resist contact, to catch these kids early before too much damage is done.

Thursday 3 August 2017  
9am-4.30pm  
Saxons Training Facilities  
1/140 St Georges Terrace, Perth  
Registration: \$120

CPD points available for lawyers  
Please register early as places are limited. Register here:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/RAFN>

For more information contact Jane Azzopardi  
[jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au)

### AFCC Australia 2017 Conference: 'Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!'

The Australian Chapter of the AFCC

has announced the program for its fourth annual conference. The conference will take place on 17, 18 and 19 August 2017 in Melbourne at Crown Conference Centre. The theme is 'Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!' and the organisers have designed a rich and varied program with local, national and international presenters.

17th-19th August 2017  
Crown Conference Centre  
8 Whiteman St  
Southbank, Melbourne  
Registration from \$760

To view the program or to register visit <http://afccnet.org.au/>

### Child Inclusive Practice Forum

The 2017 Child Inclusive Practice Forum, We're all in this together, recognises the journey that parents and children and practitioners from across the field take through the process of resolving separation disputes. Reflecting this, international and local keynote and invited speakers will cover wide ranging topics to enrich the practice of Child and Family Therapists, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners, Family Law and Childhood Specialists.

18-20 October 2017  
Adelaide Hills Convention Centre  
Registration from \$240

For more details or to register visit <https://frsa.org.au/child-inclusive-practice-forum-2017/>

### National Family & Domestic Violence Summit

The 2017 National Family and Domestic Violence Summit will put a new focus on business and technology, alongside case-studies of innovative and successful family and domestic violence programs, analysis from experts and stakeholders, and reports from police and government organisations.

The 3rd Annual National Family and Domestic Violence Summit will bring together professions, advocates, survivors, scholars, executives, and citizens, crossing social boundaries and uniting with a single purpose; the prevention and end of family and domestic violence in Australia.

13 & 14 November 2017  
Radisson Blu Plaza, Sydney  
Early bird registration from \$695

Early bird closes 31 August 2017. For more details and to register visit <https://www.informa.com.au/event/national-family-domestic-violence-summit/>

### WALK IN THEIR SHOES TOURS

WAFPN's popular family court tours fill up fast! This is a fantastic opportunity to experience the pathways families take when attending the Family Court of WA.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO ATTEND  
[jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au)

## The latest contributions to evidence based practice in family law

If you are undertaking research in the field of family law that you think may be of interest to WAFPN members please contact us to have it included in our eBulletin

[WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshiptswa.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshiptswa.org.au)

## Domestic and family violence and parenting: Mixed method insights into impact and support needs: Final report

The Domestic and Family Violence and Parenting program is an extensive mixed method project that examines the impact of inter-parental conflict (IPC) and domestic and family violence (DFV) on parenting and parent-child relationships. It makes a unique contribution by bringing together evidence on a diversity of Australian populations, life-course stages, and experiences of IPC and DFV. The research captures the experiences and impacts on fathers, mothers, and children at varying ages and stages of development and independence. This has enabled identification of important issues that are shared or differ across gender and family structure. The results illustrate the impacts of IPC and DFV that affect a large number of families, as well as the experiences of those who have undergone highly challenging and traumatic circumstances.

[Read full article.](#)

Kaspiew, R., Horsfall, B., & Qu, L. (2017). Domestic and family violence and parenting: Mixed method insights into impact and support needs: Final report. ANROWS Horizons.

## Fathers who use violence: Options for safe practice where there is ongoing contact with children

Domestic and family violence (DFV) remains a chronic and destructive aspect of family life in Australia (Cox, 2015). Its pervasive reach into the lives of women and children creates fear, undermines health and wellbeing, is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children, and costs the community an estimated \$21.6 billion (Our Watch, 2016; Price Waterhouse & Cooper, 2015).

This paper responds to a challenge that has continued to frustrate workers attempting to intervene to support women and children living with DFV. The challenge that arises when women and children may not be in a position to separate from their abusive and violent partners, and when women and children's wellbeing and safety may not be enhanced by separation. In particular, this paper is focused on fathers who use violence and whether there are strategies that engage and address the issues for children, women and men who are continuing to live with DFV.

[Read full article.](#)

Humphreys, C., & Campo, M. (2017). Fathers who use violence: Options of safe practice where there is ongoing contact with children (CFCA Paper No. 43). Melbourne: Child Family Community Australia information exchange, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

## Exploring approaches to child welfare in contexts of domestic violence and abuse: Family group conferences

This article sets out to explore service provision for families affected by domestic violence and abuse. For most families where there are child protection concerns, there are possibilities for intervention from child welfare agencies and domestic abuse services, but these have been criticised as having distinct and disconnected practice cultures and orientation. Recognising this divergence, in this paper, we advocate for safeguarding children affected by domestic violence and abuse using the family group conference (FGC) model. This offers possibilities for a coherent response that integrates both child- and women-centred concerns in a holistic approach to family safety and wellbeing. Furthermore, it is well documented that safeguarding work involves professionally-led decision-making that is pre-occupied with the management of risk. FGCs, however, promote a partnership approach that engages families in a more democratic decision-making process. As such, FGCs offer families the opportunity to develop their own safety and support plans for the protection and care of children recognising the family's inherent strengths.

[Read abstract or purchase article.](#)

Rogers M, Parkinson K. Exploring approaches to child welfare in contexts of domestic violence and abuse: Family group conferences. Child & Family Social Work. 2017;1-8.

## NOTICE BOARD

## What's happening around town

If you or your organisation has something to announce, pin it on the board! Submit an article for the notice board by emailing:

[WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au](mailto:WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au)

## WA has new family violence laws

Significant changes to Western Australia's restraining order laws came into operation on 1 July 2017.

Legal Aid WA, in consultation with the community legal sector, and using funding provided by the Department of Justice, has created a short but catchy infographic. The infographic sets out the key legislative changes, particularly in relation to Family Violence Restraining Orders (FVROs). FVRO's give greater support to victims of family violence, especially children, and make people who use family violence more accountable.

The infographic contains useful information for:

- Lawyers, paralegals, refuge workers and other front line community workers assisting people experiencing family violence, and
- People experiencing family violence.

If you would like to display the infographic on your website, please use the following link.

[WA has new family violence laws - infographic](#)

## New draft legislative amendments to prevent FDV victims from being cross-examined by their alleged perpetrators

The federal attorney-general department has released draft legislative amendments to the Family Law Act 1975 to ensure victims of family violence are protected from being personally cross-examined by their alleged perpetrators.

The proposed legislative changes are part of the Government's ongoing commitment to implementing protections against family violence for Australian families, and form part of the Government's package of measures to further support the family law system.

The draft amendments see a legislative ban on self-represented parties conducting direct cross-examination where one party is convicted or charged of an offence involving violence against another party. The court will also have discretion to disallow direct cross-examination in other matters where there are allegations of family violence.

To maintain procedural fairness, the court will be able to appoint a person to act as an intermediary to ask questions in cross examination on behalf of a party. The draft amendments respond to concerns that family violence victims may experience further trauma from being directly cross-examined by their alleged perpetrators. This issue has been the

subject of consultation with stakeholders and was identified as a key area of reform by the federal, state and territory governments at the 2016 COAG National Summit on reducing violence against women and their children.

The draft legislation, consultation paper and information on how to make a submission are available at: [ag.gov.au/Consultations/Pages/Family-violence-cross-examination-amendments.aspx](http://ag.gov.au/Consultations/Pages/Family-violence-cross-examination-amendments.aspx). Submissions can be lodged until 25 August 2017.

## Follow WAFPN on Twitter!

If you want to keep up to date with info and articles we find interesting, follow WAFPN on Twitter: [@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA)

## UNSUBSCRIBE?

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## FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to [jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au](mailto:jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au)